

up, whether our expenses are going up, and what the relationship is between this year and last year. So this will be passed out in the next few seconds.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, because of the nature of this bill and the seriousness of the issue that it deals with, I wonder if we might be allowed to somewhat deviate from our ordinary custom and I would allow Senator Simon to offer an amendment which he has. Then that amendment, I hope the body will adopt it, can be discussed in conjunction with the bill, because the content of the amendment will probably be discussed whether it is added or not. So could I allow him to offer the amendment because the bill's intent is simple. It is to abolish the death penalty and I don't think I need to explain that part but I do want to argue it after he offers his amendment.

PRESIDENT: I think this is wholly within our procedure and in our custom because you have explained the bill and we are now open for an amendment. Do you have an amendment on the desk?

CLERK: Read amendment. (See page 505, Journal.) Signed Senator Simon.

PRESIDENT: Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am going to attempt to discuss the merits of the amendments separate from the content of the bill. It may be a very fine line to walk on but I am going to attempt to do it because I think the issue of whether or not to take a life is something that the bill addresses itself to and what I am proposing and having talked to a number of senators who expressed concerns about not properly punishing somebody who committed a first degree murder crime, I think the amendment allows for that. So I would like to just generally discuss the amendments and not discuss the merits of Senator Chambers' bill at this time. The amendment states that for each count of first degree murder there shall be a minimum sentence of thirty years with no provisions for parole and the maximum of ninety years and that is for each count. So we have differentiated here between a person taking one life and a mass murderer. If a mass murderer went on a spree and killed five people, by the definition of this amendment, his minimum time served would be 150 years and he would not be eligible for parole. So I think this would take care of many of the arguments I have heard. Number one, that the people get out too quickly, that they might serve six or seven years and then can be paroled. This eliminates that problem. And second of all, it differentiates between a person taking one life in a fit of anger versus somebody who has gone on a mass killing spree and has killed three or four or five people. I think the amendment is very simple. It is very self-explanatory and I would hope that we could discuss the amendment based on its merits.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.